

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1834 - HB 2391

March 4, 2020

SUMMARY OF BILL: Effective July 1, 2019, automatically restores a person's right to vote upon being released from confinement. Authorizes a person whose right to vote would have been automatically restored to request an application for restoration of voting rights.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-29-202, a person convicted of a felony is eligible to apply for restoration of voting rights upon receiving a pardon, discharge from custody for service or expiration of the maximum sentence, or being granted a certificate of final discharge.
- Further, a person is prohibited from eligibility to apply for a voter registration card unless the person has paid all restitution to victims of the offense, all court costs assessed against the person for a trial if the applicant is not indigent, and all child support obligations.
- The proposed legislation automatically restores an eligible person's voting rights upon release from confinement and regardless of any debts paid.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-29-203, the pardoning authority, warden or agent of the incarcerating authority, or parole officer or agent of the supervising authority are authorized to provide a restoration of voting rights application to an eligible person upon request.
- The proposed legislation requires the pardoning, incarcerating, or supervising authority to provide the person with a voter registration application and forward a copy of the form to the Coordinator of Elections.
- Any person whose right of suffrage would have been automatically restored is authorized to request and be issued a voter registration application by the pardoning authority, warden or agent of the incarcerating authority, or parole officer or agent of the supervising authority.
- The issuing authorities can provide and complete voter registration applications for newly-released persons or previously released persons that request an application within existing resources.
- Completed voter registration applications are sent to the local county election commission in the county the applicant desires to register to vote.

- No significant impact to the policies or procedures of local county election commissions or the Coordinator of Elections.
- Based on information provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts, the proposed legislation will not result in a significant increase in caseloads for the state and local courts. Any increase in expenditures will be absorbed within existing state and local resources.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/agr